

The Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Today, we will be taking a closer look at the Great Commission Jesus gave to the Apostles in **Matthew 28:18-20**. Let's read the words of Jesus.

Notice that this was not a baptism service.

There was no one standing in line to be baptized that day. This was a commission or a commandment to the disciples. Jesus said in **Luke 24:47-48** that this message had a definite beginning.

It began to be taught beginning in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. This is when repentance and remission of sins through baptism first began to be preached and taught by the disciples.

First, Jesus commanded the disciples to teach all nations. What did they teach all nations? The disciples taught them what **the Name** was. After they taught them, they were to baptize them in **the Name**. The three prepositional phrases that follow the noun **"name"** are very pivotal. Let's take a closer look.

One very important thing to realize is that the disciples had already been teaching and baptizing people for several years before Matthew ever wrote his Gospel. This proves that they did not go to **Matthew 28:19** to get their baptismal formula like many churches do today.

The disciples knew what the Name was because they were eyewitnesses of His Majesty. **(2 Peter 1:16)** We read in **Luke 24:45**, that the Lord opened the understanding of the disciples so that they could understand the Scriptures.

The disciples had just spent 3 1/2 years with Jesus during His earthly ministry. They witnessed many healings, wonders, and miracles done by Jesus. The disciples sat under the teachings of Jesus for these 3 1/2 years while they were being prepared to propagate the Gospel message. This Gospel message would be the message that would bring remission of sin, reconciliation with God, and the promise of eternal life.

Jesus instructed the disciples to go to the city of Jerusalem and to wait until they were endued with power from on high. **(Luke 24:49)** Obeying these instructions, the disciples went to Jerusalem and there they waited, praying in the Upper Room. **(Acts 1:14-15)**

Jesus had told them that they would be baptized with the Holy Ghost very soon. Jesus also told them with the Holy Ghost came power, power to be witnesses wherever they went. **(Acts 1:5,8)**

About 10 days later, we read how those 120 in the Upper Room were filled with the Holy Ghost just as Jesus had said. They all knew that something supernatural was happening, for they all began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. **(Acts 2:1-4)**

Peter then stood up and explained to the crowd that had gathered exactly what was taking place. Peter says in **Acts 2:17** this was the Spirit of God being poured out which marked the beginning of the last days as prophesied by the prophet Joel. **(Joel 2:28)**

At the conclusion of Peter's message, He boldly states that the Jews had crucified their Lord and their long-awaited promised Messiah. **(Acts 2:36)** These words pierced their very hearts as they realized that they had rejected and crucified their Messiah. These strong feelings of remorse prompted them to seek a way to right their wrong and turn to God. **(Acts 2:37)**

Peter did not hesitate to give them the answer.

The answer Peter gave them that day is the eternal Gospel Message.

First, repent, that is make a complete change of mind and direction and decide to live for God. After repentance came **baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins. Then Peter said, ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Ghost**; for it is a promise. **(Acts 2:38-39)** This is the Gospel message. This is the rebirth experience that Jesus spoke about in **John 3:3,5,7**. Jesus also said in **Mark 16:16**, ***"...he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...."***

The only baptism that existed throughout the New Testament was baptism by full immersion in the Name of Jesus Christ. This is when the remission of sins takes place.

After the first century church was **"caught away"**, that's when the mode and formula of baptism began to change. Many churches today do not practice a Biblical mode and formula for baptism.

One thing that we must keep foremost in our minds is this: the disciples knew what His Name was. They went everywhere proclaiming the Name of Jesus Christ. **(Acts 4:12, Philippians 2:9-11)**

At least ten years after the Day of Pentecost, God moved on Matthew to write his Gospel. Matthew, one of the eyewitnesses of the Majesty of Jesus, was present on the Day of Pentecost.

The Bible tells us that they were all in total agreement and in one accord. (**Acts 2:14**) The Lord had prepared them for this moment. They had the message right. **Matthew 28:19** makes a very bold statement about just who Jesus was. Remember, Jesus said to teach them first what the Name is; then baptize them in that Name.

Matthew 28:19 says that **this Name** is **the Name of** the Father **and of** the Son **and of** the Holy Ghost.

Jesus claimed that he that sees Him, is looking at the Father. (**John 14:8-9**) Jesus said that the Father dwells in Him. (**John 14:10-11**) Jesus also said, **“I and my Father are one.”** (**John 10:30, Colossians 2:9, John 1:1,14**) Jesus was the Son of God because He was **“begotten”** which means He was **“born”**. (**Luke 1:35, Matthew 1:21,23, Matthew 16:16, John 3:16**)

Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them comfortless but would come to dwell in them. (**John 14:17-18**) Jesus said that He would send the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth to teach them all things and to bring all things back to their remembrance. (**John 14:26**) On the Day of Pentecost, Peter told the people that what they were witnessing that day was Jesus pouring out the Holy Ghost. (**Acts 2:32-33**)

Remember, when Matthew wrote his Gospel, the early Church, which began on the Day of Pentecost, had been already baptizing all converts in the Name of Jesus Christ for at least 10 years.

This means that the Gospel of Matthew was not giving us a new formula to use for baptism, nor was it a description of the Trinity. The manmade doctrine of the Trinity was not officially formulated until the 4th century. What **Matthew 28:19** was proclaiming is that there is **one Name**. This Name was the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The prophet Isaiah summed it all up in **Isaiah 9:6-7**. For unto us a child is born – Jesus. Unto us a son is given – Jesus died at Calvary. And the government shall be upon his shoulder – **Revelation 11:15**.

His name shall be called:

Wonderful – the Name of Jesus is wonderful,

Counsellor – Jesus is our guide and counsellor (**John 16:13**),

The mighty God – In Jesus dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (**Matthew 3:23, Colossians 2:9**),

The Everlasting Father – **John 14:9**,

The Prince of Peace – Jesus brings peace and comfort to us. (**John 14:18**)

The subject of **Isaiah 6** never changes. Isaiah is describing one being whose Name is one – Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

Because Jesus was born a man, submitted Himself to rejection and abuse, endured the cross, remained faithful until the end of His earthly life, He has become the author of eternal salvation. (**Hebrews 5:8-9**)

The prophet Zechariah says in **14:9**, and the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. As **Matthew 1:21** says, “...*thou shalt call **his name JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins.*”

Ephesians 4:5 says: “**ONE** Lord, **ONE** faith, **ONE** baptism.”

Notice the noun “**name**” in **Matthew 28:19**, is a singular noun. This brings us to the conclusion that there is only one Name that encompasses the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Jesus commissioned His disciples to first teach what **the Name** is and then **baptize in that Name**.

Did the disciples obey the words that Jesus commanded them? Yes, they did. This is exactly what the disciples did; they went everywhere teaching and preaching the Name of Jesus Christ and baptizing in the Name of Jesus Christ.

They did this because they knew that the Name of Jesus Christ was the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

According to the Bible, this is the **ONLY** way to receive remission of sins. The one Name that fulfills all the qualities of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is Jesus Christ. **Matthew 28:19** is one of the most powerful declarations of the Oneness of God in the whole Bible.

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